

Jimmy J. Bartlett

January 15, 2005

The Honorable Christopher A. Knight
Director Florida Highway Patrol
2900 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0500

Dear Colonel Knight;

On December 07, 2004 I was driving on the public roadway in Port Orange Florida. I was in a heated discussion with my 15 year old about her learners licence. I was driving along and not paying attention. When I topped the hill and saw a Florida Trooper car coming toward me. I didn't think anything about it because I didn't think I was speeding. About that time the blue light came on and sure enough I was over the speed limit. I don't have to tell you this made my daughters day because I was giving her a hard time.

Trooper R.D. May was the officer stopping me. He approached the vehicle and ask for my drivers licence, insurance, and vehicle registration. I complied while the whole time my daughter was whispering your going to get a ticket. Trooper May went to his vehicle with my licence and registration and I was sure I would get a traffic citation.

Getting a ticket did not sink in. I was so taken in by how sharp Trooper May looked in his uniform. I have been in Florida for 7 years now and had never thought much of the uniform worn by troopers here. This officer made this uniform stand out. As he exited his vehicle the first thing he did was straighten his duty rig then I noticed him glance at his reflection as he walked past his vehicle.

Trooper May handed me a paper then informed me not to worry it was just a warning. He had noticed my retired badge in my wallet when I handed him my drivers licence. After 24 years in law enforcement and at 46 years old I have never received a traffic citation. I sure thought I had one this day, but it would not have been that bad because this Trooper was very professional and one of the sharpest dress Troopers I have ever seen.

I use to tell my officers that you can enforce the law and not make people mad if you look good doing it. This statement came back to me on this day. I still stand by it.

Please pass this letter on to Trooper May and thank him for the professional courtesy he extended to me.

Best regards,
Jimmy Bartlett

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